

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-4 and 15-22 are pending. Applicants submit that the Examiner's October 5, 2006 Office Action contains an "error that affects applicant's ability to reply to the Office action..." (MPEP 710.06). Specifically, the Examiner did not precisely indicate the status of claims 15-22 and their grounds for allowance or rejection. Since there are no grounds indicated for the rejection or allowance of claims 15-22, Applicants are unable to reply to the Office action.

Applicants notified the Examiner of this situation on October 16, 2006 by telephone. The transmission of this response and the telephone notification are within one month of the mail date of the October 5, 2006 Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner correct this error and "restart the previously set period for reply to run from the date the error is corrected," in compliance with MPEP 710.06.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/17/06

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